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**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 7 APRIL 2015**

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT GUIDE**

**BY: ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 This report deals with a decision by the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee on 15 June 2010 to bring a further report back to Committee relating to the outcome from a working group of the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (F) (18) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the functions of the Council under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that Committee:**

- (i) notes the publication of the Roads Development Guide by the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS);**
- (ii) instructs the Head of Direct Services to provide ongoing input to SCOTS on behalf of Moray Council and provide periodic briefing notes to Committee Members;**
- (iii) instructs the Head of Direct Services to submit a report to the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee for their consideration of the Roads Development Guide as a material consideration in the determination of development proposals.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Following the publication of the Scottish Planning Policy document Designing Streets a report was submitted to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee on 15 June 2010. The minute of the meeting refers (Para 22). This report is brought to Committee in accordance with the decision at that Committee.

- 3.2 The Committee was advised that the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) had set up a working group looking at best practice for street design and other implications arising from the publication of Designing Streets.
- 3.3 The SCOTS working group carried out consultation with all of the local roads authorities in Scotland as part of the preparation of a draft Roads Development Guide. Transportation Officers responded on behalf of Moray Council.
- 3.4 The new Roads Development Guide was published in May 2014 and a seminar for practitioners was held in Aberdeen on 22 October 2014.
- 3.5 The new Roads Development Guide consists of 3 parts: Part 1 Introduction; Part 2 Principles; and Part 3 Details.
- 3.6 The document has not been published in hard copy, however, is available on the web and is highlighted by a number of different organisations on their web pages. It is intended to provide an external link from the Moray Council Road Construction Consent web page to the Roads Development Guide. A copy of the full document has been printed and placed in the Members Library.

Organisation	Web page
Link	
Scottish Government	Creating Places Online
<a href="http://www.creatingplacescotland.org/">http://www.creatingplacescotland.org/</a>	
SCOTS	Hosted by Perth and Kinross Council
<a href="http://localapps.pkc.gov.uk/internet/flashmag/councils/nationalroadsguide/roadsfeb2014.pdf">http://localapps.pkc.gov.uk/internet/flashmag/councils/nationalroadsguide/roadsfeb2014.pdf</a>	
Institution of Civil Engineers	Information Resources
<a href="http://www.ice.org.uk/Information-resources/Document-Library/National-Roads-Development-Guide-in-Scotland">http://www.ice.org.uk/Information-resources/Document-Library/National-Roads-Development-Guide-in-Scotland</a>	

- 3.7 In summary the Roads Development Guide:

- provides guidance on Road Construction Consents;
- provides guidance on complex infrastructure requirements in one place;
- accommodates Local Authority variances;
- suggests a review board and update procedure (needed as legislation changes over time);

- supports the Scottish Government Policy Designing Streets;
  - advocates a re-designation of road hierarchy to user hierarchy;
  - supports a multi-disciplinary approach and early engagement;
  - encourages environments that focus on people; and
  - supports more integration in the planning process.

3.8 Transportation Officers have submitted information relating to the variations relevant to Moray Council as part of the initial consultations in preparation for the publication of the Roads Development Guide. The list of variations is attached at **APPENDIX A** to this report.

3.9 The Roads Development Guide could be treated as a material consideration for development proposals. The Committee is requested to approve a report to be submitted to the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee formally seeking this status for the Roads Development Guide.

#### 4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Moray 2023: A Plan for the Future/Service Plan**

The Roads Development Guide supports the main aims of the Economic Development programme by ensuring suitable transport facilities and infrastructure.

##### **(b) Policy and Legal**

The Roads Development Guide primarily supports the statutory process for Road Construction Consent that is covered under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. The Roads Development Guide is also seen as the technical enabler to the Scottish Planning Policy Designing Streets.

##### **(c) Financial implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

##### **(d) Risk Implications**

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

##### **(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

**(f) Property**

There are no property implications arising from this report.

**(g) Equalities**

The Roads Development Guide emphasises a user hierarchy for transport infrastructure. This is supported by specific sections referring to inclusive mobility, design for pedestrians and cyclists, and provision for disabled parking.

**(h) Consultations**

A Scott, Legal Services Manager, L Paisey, Principal Accountant, J Grant, Head of Development Services and D Toonen, Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted and

**5. CONCLUSIONS**

**5.1 The Society of Chief Officers for Transportation in Scotland's (SCOTS) document focuses on how to achieve Roads Construction Consent (RCC) for all new or improved roads for a local authority to adopt. There are many areas where its content relates to the design aspects of Designing Streets however it goes in to more technical detail. There is a system of a review board that allows updates as and when required due to changes to legislation, best practice, codes of practice, and other such documents. The document accommodates local authority variances.**

**5.2 In order for the Roads Development Guide to be treated as a material consideration for development proposals the Committee is requested to instruct the Head of Direct Services to submit a report to be submitted to the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee formally seeking material consideration status for the Roads Development Guide.**

Author of Report: Richard Gerring, Senior Engineer (Transport Development)

Background Papers: National Roads Development Guide (SCOTS)

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